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# The Hongkong Telegraph.

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VOL. III NO. 57

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1948.

## 2 EXPLOSIONS ROCK JERUSALEM

### Heavy Loan Withdrawals

London, Mar. 9.—Britain last week drew \$3,000,000 from her Canadian loan. In addition to drawing the last \$100,000,000 from the United States loan, it was learned today.

This leaves \$9,000,000 still to be drawn from the Canadian loan this month, to complete the agreed drawings of \$45,000,000 this quarter.

In each of the two previous months, Britain drew \$15,000,000 from the Canadian loan, as against \$40,000,000 a month in the last quarter of 1947.—Reuter.

### Hongkong's Re-Exports: Questions In Commons

London, Mar. 9.—Mr William Teeling, Conservative, asked in the House of Commons today what was being done about exports destined for China which had been held up in Hongkong in the last six months.

Mr George Bottomley, Secretary for Overseas Trade, replied he had no figures available as Hongkong was the general distributing centre for the Far East and it was not possible to distinguish goods imported for resale, or on shipment to China, from those destined for other markets.

Mr Teeling: "Is the Minister aware China has quite recently closed the market to many goods being put through Hongkong, and are steps being taken elsewhere, say Siam?"

Mr Bottomley: "That will be considered, although in the case of Siam, it is a soft currency area and we shall not be very anxious."

### SHOULD BE RELEASED

Mr Walter Fletcher, Conservative, said an enormous amount of goods and merchandise was held up in Hongkong. He suggested it was the Board of Trade's duty to release them and redistribute them to gain a little more hard currency.

Mr Bottomley replied that Hongkong was a general distributing centre. This was a matter which had to be considered fully. Import licences entered into it.

After Mr Bottomley had answered another question about the amount of British exports to Siam and the Philippines, Mr Teeling said Conservatives were rather nervous that the Board of Trade "is not paying enough attention to the Far East."

Mr Bottomley replied that the Government was paying it every attention.—Reuter.

### EDITORIAL

## Hongkong Citizenship

IN its latest issue, the Crown Colonist deals at some length with the question of local government in the Colonies, stressing the obvious, that education is a fundamental requisite for the development of a community that is able to take an intelligent interest in public affairs. It is not a natural gift, nor is it learned overnight. This is true, and it will probably be, sharp, brought home to Hongkong when the time arrives for the community to take more active part in managing its own affairs. Nonetheless, the desire for self-government must be stimulated and developed just as much as knowledge for carrying out the task, and it must be conceded that precious little stimulus is offered the people of Hongkong. If the Colony is to possess good citizens, eager to identify themselves with administrative and legislative problems, they must be offered citizenship, a status that will give everyone the personal feeling of belonging to Hongkong and of being a vital cog in its social and administrative mechanism. It is useless giving the people constitutional reform unless there is evidence that they are interested in it. Unless interest cannot be expected unless the community has a sense of pride in the place and can regard it as their home. There has never been any serious attempt, especially on the official level, to promote and foster a sense of permanent citizenship. On the contrary the attitude of mind, quite deliberately encouraged, has been and still is to regard

life in Hongkong as a means to an end—to get a safe job, make as much money in as quick a time as possible, and then clear out to make way for the next generation who will strive to repeat the formula. Today the situation is somewhat aggravated by the element of doubt about the future status of Hongkong—a doubt which, of course, could be removed by an official declaration of policy from Whitehall. But whether or not it should be decided to make any such declaration, Government could stimulate a great deal more confidence in the Colony by offering the residents a Hongkong citizenship—with which would go privileges as well as responsibilities. It seems fairly apparent that the apathy shown by Hongkong towards the proposition of managing its own affairs is due to the fact that the people do not consider the affairs as their own, but as administrative and legislative routine designed principally to keep an outpost of the Colonial empire ticking over. Most necessary is it to make the local born of whatever nationality, feel and believe that Hongkong means something to him. Offering him slightly better working conditions and a vote is not sufficient. He must be given pride in the place, and this can best be stimulated by conferring on him a full citizenship and a status which he would enjoy if he lived in any other country. Education in the ordinary mechanics of local government is not in itself sufficient to engender the civic spirit. There must also be rewards.

**PROPOSAL TO UN**  
Jerusalem, Mar. 9.—The Jewish Agency on Tuesday called its representatives to the United Nations that a 32-member Jewish Council of Government be formed for Palestine's Jewish Area, under the United Nations agreement for the formation of such a council.

The Agency's recommendation was that the Council include all 12 agency executive members now in Palestine, 14 from Vaad Leumi and six others.

The political complexion recommended was for 14 left wingers, including one Communist, 10 Labour and three United Labour, which would be composed of volunteers and men who had served a year as national service men (conscripts).

This Territorial Army must, on the outbreak of war, be able to provide for the bulk of Britain's anti-aircraft and coast defences, the necessary reinforcements for the defence of ports and airfields, and also with a field force properly balanced and complete with all modern technical units for service wherever it might be required.—Reuter.

**BRITAIN'S STAND**  
Lake Success, Mar. 9.—Britain advised the United Nations on Monday she would not permit formation of a Jewish or Arab militia in Palestine before British rule ends.

The UN Palestine Commission had asked Britain, as mandatory power, for permission to start organisation of the two militias as provided for in the UN partition project.—Associated Press.

**REFUELLING FEAT**  
Shannon Airport, Eire, Mar. 9.—A British Overseas Airways freight-carrying Liberator was refuelled at a height of 18,000 feet over the Atlantic today, claimed to be the greatest height at which refuelling in the air has ever been carried out.

Eight hundred and fifty gallons of petrol were transferred during the operation, which took place hundreds of miles off shore.—Reuter.

**SHOCK WILL BE SHARP**  
"The shock will be sharp and sudden," Mr Shinwell declared. Consequently, a steady flow of trained and disciplined men was needed for the Territorial Army, which would be composed of volunteers and men who had served a year as national service men (conscripts).

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**CHEERS FOR CHURCHILL**  
London, Mar. 9.—Thousands of people lined the streets and cheered today as Mr Winston Churchill, the Conservative leader, smoking his traditional cigar, toured the London suburb of North Croydon, the scene of a bye-election on Thursday, which is expected to be the keenest contest since the Labour Government took office in 1945.

Speaking through a microphone in support of the Conservative candidate, Mr Fred Harris, Mr Churchill told the electors that his return would send around the world the words: "England is herself again."

It would show that the old Lion is on the move again.

At the general election, North Croydon voted Conservative by a majority of only 607 votes over a Labour candidate.

Since then, 12,000 new electors have moved into the field and their political views are unknown.

The Labour candidate is the prominent author and lecturer, Mr Harold Nicholson.—Reuter.

### New Atomic Discovery

Berkeley, California, Mar. 9.—A new laboratory achievement—the manufacture of an atom particle known as a meson—was reported here today, and acclaimed as the greatest thing in atomic research since the discovery of uranium fission in 1939.

The manufacture of the meson, an atom particle as protons, electrons and neutrons are atom particles, was announced by Dr Ernest Lawrence, and Mr James B. Fairchild, Director of the University of California's 4,000-ton cyclotron.

The particles, which eventually may lead to atomic energy far greater than that within the atom bomb, were produced in the University of California's 4,000-ton cyclotron.

Dr Lawrence said the laboratory mesons will give scientists their best tool for finding out just what particles there are in the nuclei of atoms.—Reuter.

### Front-Line Soldier Still Important

### Shinwell's House Of Commons Statement

London, Mar. 9.—The idea that the discovery of modern and more deadly weapons of warfare had destroyed the value of the army was disputed today by the War Minister, Mr Emanuel Shinwell.

"I believe this is a fallacy. Scientists may have produced weapons of mass destruction but none which so far obviates the need for fighting on land," he declared.

"The idea that in a future war all that is required is to press a button and that land forces are superfluous is not supported by any evidence in the possession of my Department, and it may prove dangerous for this country to rely upon any such assumption."

Mr Shinwell was opening a debate in the House of Commons on the Army Estimates, which provide for a net expenditure in the coming financial year of £365 million—£58 million less than in the current year.

### NOT IN CONFLICT

The commitments of the British Army overseas did not conflict with our wish to be spared the horrors of another war and to seek, through conciliation and agreement, a lasting peace.

"We are compelled in this period of disturbance and confusion to seek effective measures to uphold the traditions of this nation, whose way of life, in spite of some defects, is well worth defending."

The true size of the Army on April 1 would be 527,000. In a year's time, it would be 339,000.

"Since the end of the war in Europe, 2,645,000 men had been released from the Army. By the end of next March, it was hoped to build up the regular army—the long-service army excluding conscripts—to about 200,000 men.

If war should occur in the future, Britain could not hope to build up and train her land forces.

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## GRIM POSSIBILITY OF HUNGER AND NO WORK

### Cripps' Warning

London, Mar. 9.—Sir Stafford Cripps, Director of Britain's economy, laid before his country today the "excessively grim" possibility of hunger and unemployment unless United States aid is approved by Congress.

In a 30,000 word survey for 1948 he listed imports of food and vital raw materials only until the end of June. He said for later months "they have not been finally decided."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said emergency schemes for slashing food and other purchases are already being considered if Marshall plan aid fails to arrive. Plans are also being considered for making the most of the money if it becomes available.

Cripps did not go into details about the plans, but said, "Preparations are being made for either eventuality."

Sir Stafford Cripps, prophesied a "Somewhat reduced standard of living for the British people even with the help of Marshall Plan funds."

The survey disclosed that because foreign markets are becoming "saturated" with goods, the Government has slashed its 1948 export target by 10 per cent.

### LACK OF STEEL

Lack of steel also will curtail export goods.

The number of jobsless will rise from the end of 1947—figure of 300,000 to 450,000, the paper predicted but explained that the increase for the most part would be short-term unemployment and no "depressed areas" should emerge.

The survey deficit in balance of payments was expected to drop from last year's £875,000,000 to £250,000,000.

### MacArthur For President Campaign

Washington, Mar. 9.—The campaign to elect General Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Allied Commander in Tokyo, to be President of the United States, swung into action here today, after the general's announcement of his willingness to run.

Mr Warren Wright, a Chicago banker who is the national coordinator of the "MacArthur for America" Clubs being set up across the nation, waved a sheaf of telegrams at a press conference here, declaring: "General MacArthur's sentiment is already landsliding the country."

"General MacArthur's statement yesterday offers hope and courage to a politically sick and worried people. This is more than a political campaign; it is a crusade for real Americans to save America."

Messages coming into the "MacArthur for President" headquarters here indicate that the general's supporters feel that he would take a firm policy towards Russia, and that, because of his long military experience, he would be the man "to tell old Joe where to get off."

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### LONDON SWELTERS

London, Mar. 9.—London today had its hottest March day since 1870, with a shade temperature reaching 73 degrees Fahrenheit during the afternoon.

The average temperature for March over the last 30 years is 42.9 degrees Fahrenheit.

This time last year, parts of the country were in the grip of heavy snow, with isolated villages cut off by snow drifts.—Reuter.

### FOG CAUSES COLLISIONS AT SEA

### Trawler Sinks

London, Mar. 9.—As fog blanketed the sea round the English coast on Monday night and early Tuesday, a French trawler sank, two ships were in collision and a tug set out to stand by two others.

Mysterious radio messages intercepted by Land's End radio, from the French trawler Char Chandon, on the International distress frequency, that the trawler Blisson was "sunk" were cleared up by another message from the French mainland that the Blisson went down off Ushant and that her crew had been landed.

Then, the Penzance Cornwall Coast Guard reported that the Helene Trader, believed to be Canadian, had been in collision with an unknown vessel 25 miles south west of Land's End.

Finally a tug set off from Falmouth to stand by the British ships, Craftsman and Sampenn, which were making slowly for port after being damaged in a collision on Monday.

### Cabaret Guild Sues Govt.

Shanghai, Mar. 10.—The Cabaret Guild yesterday sued the Social Affairs Bureau authorities for the latter's "illegal act" in dissolving the Guild immediately after the riot of cabaret girls and workers on January 31.

The Guild declared that it was not involved in the riot and therefore it was both unreasonable and "illegal" for the Bureau to dissolve it "of their own free will."

The Municipal Government have decided to answer the Guild's charges privately and decline to present their case to the court, according to the China Press.

Nevertheless, the Guild have definitely decided to proceed with legal action and have collected CH\$500 million to cover expenses.—Reuter.

### ASHIDA FORMS CABINET

Tokyo, Mar. 9.—Japan's Prime Minister, Mr Hiroshi Ashida, today announced the formation of a new Cabinet, which included as Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Suichiro Nishio, the former Chief Secretary who was reputed to be the "Strong Man" in the last Cabinet.

Mr Tetsu Katayama, the former Prime Minister, who resigned early in February, did not accept office in the new Cabinet.

Mr Ashida, the new Premier, is President of the Democratic Party and was Foreign Minister in the former Cabinet.

The Social Democrats, of which Mr Katayama is President, hold eight seats in the new Cabinet. Two members of the extreme Leftwing party are included, an action considered by political observers here as the most serious compromise on the part of the Prime Minister.

The Democrats hold seven portfolios in the new Cabinet of which two, those of the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, are held by Mr Ashida himself.

General Douglas MacArthur, the Allied Supreme Commander, gave formal approval for the Cabinet to be named after he had received Mr Ashida's resignation.

As the Leftwing men, Mr Masaru Nomizu and Mr Janjiu Kato, have been given the Ministries of State (Democrat), and Mr Suichiro Nishio (Social Democrat)—Reuter.



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AGAIN TOGETHER!  
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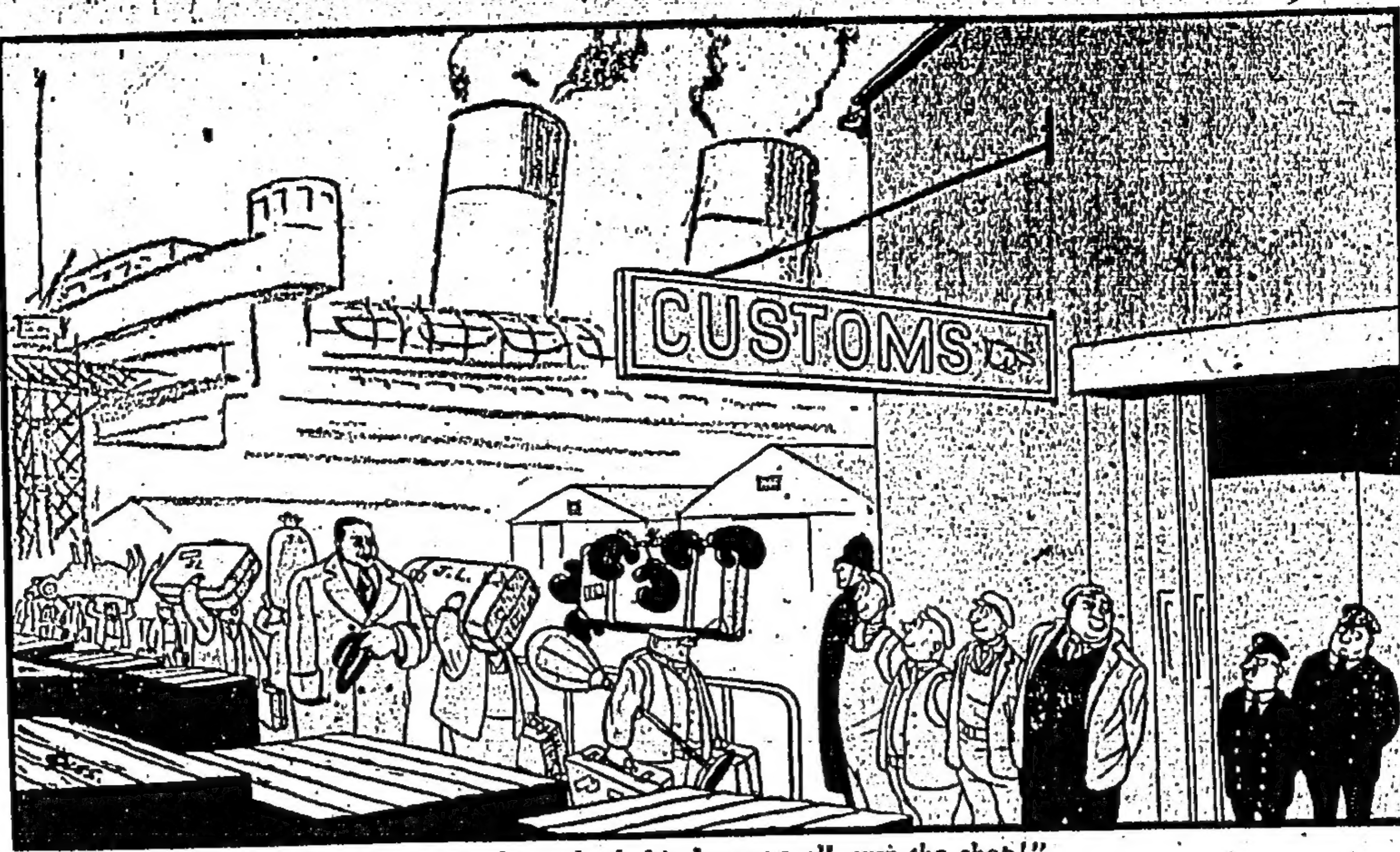
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"Bet you don't chuck his luggage all over the shop!"

Every Wednesday in the Telegraph:

# Sitting on the Fence

by NATHANIEL GUBBINS

YOUR Uncle Nat may consider himself fortunate that he is over age for industrial registration. Otherwise he would either have to choose, or be directed to, the mines, the factories, or the fields, or prove, as a professional scribbler, that he is "gainfully occupied, spending 30 hours a week writing with the intention of selling."

That is the official definition of writing, which goes to show how much officials know about the business.

As all officials regard the rest of the population as a lot of lurs (and are usually right), it must be assumed that to avoid the call-up a writer would have to provide proof that he was working 30 hours a week with the intention of selling.

Therefore, in order to provide proof to satisfy the official mind, there would have to be an official witness, either sitting by the writer's desk with a stop-watch in one hand, and a nice hot cup of cocoa in the other, or standing outside a locked study door waiting to release the writer when his shift was finished.

If this writer happened to be your Uncle Nat, the official would probably have a nervous breakdown before the end of the first week of snooping.

He would arrive, say, at nine on Monday morning, and if anybody took any notice of his knockings and ringings by ten he would be telling that your Uncle never works on Mondays.

When he called on Tuesday he would be told that your Uncle never works on Tuesday.

He would get the same information on Wednesday.

On Thursday they would tell him, yes, the funny Uncle works on Thursday, because he has to, his deadline being Friday morning.

He would find the funny Uncle right at the top of the house in a filthy temper and probably in bed reading the papers.

When the fool entered the room at the top of the house he would find it just like that.

The funny Uncle would be in bed reading the papers while Lottie the devil cat tore them to pieces as he read them—sometimes before he had a chance to read them.

The funny Uncle's filthy temper would not be improved by the presence of the official, who would be subjected to a stream of abuse, critical observations about his personal appearance, and even physical violence if he dared to answer back.

The official would then try to make his presence more bearable by adapting himself to the circumstances. He would snuff his fingers and call "pretty pussy" to Lottie the devil cat, who would fly at the fingers and tear large pieces of flesh out of them.

If he rattled anything in his pocket she would fly at his trousers and tear pieces of flesh out of his legs.

Eventually she would have him sitting in a corner, bleeding from a dozen wounds and terrified to move.

This would give the funny Uncle a chance to finish reading the papers, but as nothing particularly funny would have occurred to him by then his temper would be fouler than ever.

Therefore, the official would also be terrified to speak.

Leaving Lottie the devil cat guarding the prisoner, the funny Uncle would then shave, bath, dress himself, return and sit down at his desk.

The foolish official, believing that this was an indication that the funny Uncle was about to write something, would then try to take his stop-watch and notebook from his pocket.

But at the first movement of his hands the alert Lottie would fly at him and he would be wounded again.

Immobilised while Lottie undid his shoe laces the official would then observe the funny Uncle stare at a blank sheet of paper for upwards of an hour, chain-smoking cigarettes at twopence a go, sharpening pencils, and stamping about the room.

He would observe him scribble a line, utter a foul oath, screw the piece of paper into a ball and fling it on the floor.

Lottie, believing this to be part of an organised scheme, would then charge the power ball round the room, giving the official a chance to wipe his nose.

One of the women of the house would later bring the wretched man a cup of cocoa, but before he could sip it, Lottie, bored with the paper ball, would have the cup out of his hand and the scalding cocoa over his trousers.

He would then be suffering from burns as well as wounds.

Before the cocoa was dry on his trousers the official would be amazed to see the funny Uncle stamp out of the room and bang the door without writing a line. If he dared to look out of the window he would see him loping off to a low tavern.

Working day.

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Working afternoon.

The funny Uncle would be back at his home-lunch.

The wounded official, his hands bandaged, would be sitting patiently by his desk waiting for the afternoon's work to begin, while Lottie, refreshed by grilled herring and milk, would be trying to get his trousers off.

Hardly believing his eyes, the amazed official would then see the funny Uncle removing his tie, jacket and trousers and getting back into bed.

From the bed the official would receive curt instructions either to keep Lottie quiet for a couple of hours or tie a piece of paper to a piece of string and play with her in some other part of the house.

Whichever he did he would have a miserable afternoon, and when tea was brought up Lottie would have that over his trousers, too.

No doubt the official, thinking like a fool of literature, midnight oil and candles burning in garrets, would expect the funny Uncle to work at night when the world is quiet and Lottie the devil cat asleep. Being a conscientious official, he would be quite prepared to sit up and take notes of working hours.

But once more he would be disappointed.

At about 5.30 p.m. the funny Uncle would yawn, light a cigarette, go into the bathroom to wash his face, and be out of the house and on the way to his club, leaving a puzzled official holding a piece of string in his bandaged hand.

BY THE WAY  
by Beachcomber

ALL was calm at Wretch Manor. The Colonel was dozing in his study, with a copy of Horse, Gun and Rod in his lap. Mrs Wretch was cutting out of a newspaper a recipe for making a turnip omelette.

Suddenly, from the front of the house there came a murmur like the low growl of a mob in movement. Mrs Wretch picked up her long ears, and ran to a window. A strange sight met her eyes. She saw Wugwell and his clown—Anselmo, the Filthistan Trio and the Twelve Red-Bearded Dwarfs. They were all gesticulating, and talking loudly and happily. Then the bell rang, and a scared maid announced that nearly twenty visitors requested the honour of a word with her.

A misunderstanding.

THE visitors were shown into a large drawing-room, and as Mrs Wretch came in, the yammering died down, and Wugwell stepped forward. "To what do I owe the pleasure?" Mrs Wretch began. Whereat the twelve dwarfs cheered lustily, waving their nondescript hats in the air. The Trio joined in, and Anselmo produced a Union Jack from a clock-drawer. The cheering brought the Colonel hot-foot to the drawing-room. Thinking his wife was presenting a cup to some local football team, he added his voice to the uproar, which sent

the visitors wild with delight. In vain did Mrs Wretch try to interpose. The good-natured Colonel then led the singing of "For they are jolly good fellows." Then his eye lighted on Wugwell, and the words of the song stuck in his throat.

Rebuff.

DEAR Mr Mayor:

This is to tell you that no daughter of mine and I have only one thing to play the fairy queen or any other kind of queen in any Shopping Overcoat shop. All this mucking about in public is no good for her how do you expect her to settle down helping her mother in the kitchen if she is always fadding about in a cardboard crown, why can't you stick to your job like I do mine, I don't ask you to come here and be the cannibal king do I. Well then.

Yours truly,  
Alfred Slopcorner.

Synthesis.

FOR purposes of publication, the song, "The Little Round Wickerwork Hat," is called "You're the Biggest Bubble in My Champagne."

The refrain goes:—  
Just caaan't seem to forget you,  
Honey, Ah'm kinda stale an' flat,  
You're the biggest bubble in my champagne,  
In your little round wickerwork hat.

## In And Out Of Parliament

By Ernest Thurtle, M.P.

WITH the announcement of the plebiscite figures the issue between Mr Bevan and the doctors is fairly joined.

At present there is no indication of any concession to the intransigent doctors.

Mr Bevan, I understand, enjoys the unanimous support of his Cabinet colleagues, and his party is certainly behind him, as the vote made clear.

Frequently discussed is the parallel between the present dispute with the doctors and that of 1911.

In 1911, after much vigorous protesting, the great majority of the doctors joined the panel system.

There is a good deal of hope, if not confidence, in official circles that the present dispute will end in similar fashion.

But meantime anxiety is not absent.

THERE may yet be some changes in the redistribution proposals of the Representation of the People Bill, but it is clear the Government intends to see the main features of the measure carried into law.

The University seats appear not to have a hope of survival. Indeed, I understand that this form of double franchise has not a single friend in the Cabinet.

As for the City of London, whose sheriffs provide us with a picturesque ceremony of protest last week, it may get a minor concession.

Parliament may permit it to make a marriage, of convenience with Westminster, instead of being forced into what it obviously regards as a mesalliance with Shorehitch and Finsbury.

Will the scorned lament? Certainly not.

## Report

That would be the end of his week and he could make the following report:—

"According to instructions contained in para. 413(b), Section W of the Essential Work Order, I called at the house of the writer Gubbins at 9 a.m. precisely on Monday, January 12, 1948, for the purpose of observing him at work."

"I was informed that he did not work on Mondays. I was also informed that he did not work on Tuesdays and Wednesdays."

"I noted that this was a waste of 18 hours, or six hours a day, at the rate of 30 hours for a five-day week, provided for in the regulations."

"On Thursday I was informed that he did work that day, but found him in bed reading newspapers."

"He rose at 10.30 a.m., had a bath, sat at his desk for an hour doing nothing, went out at 11.30 a.m., and returned at 3.30 p.m. He then went to bed rose at 5.30 p.m., and went out again."

"He had not returned at midnight."

"I did not see this writer again, as he does not work on Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays either."

"He is violent and abusive and keeps a savage cat."

MR R. G. MACKAY, member for N.W. Hull, is a backbench Labour M.P.

From time to time I have heard him make speeches on a variety of subjects, and have never failed to be impressed by the quality of these efforts.

There are no literary or rhetorical graces about Mackay's speech, and very little fiction, but it is extremely effective.

He might, indeed, be likened to an able and fluent business executive, sure of himself, and right on top of his subject.

Will such a man get office? On ability I certainly think he should do so, but other factors necessarily enter into this question.

Mackay is quiet and reserved in manner, and not until one hears him does one appreciate his exceptional quality.

In an ideal political world—not this one—where merit was the only passport to office, his chances would be very good.

As things are they are highly speculative. Yet, as I have indicated, because his quality is uncommon he is worth watching.

FROM Labour's standpoint the Paisley by-election result was eminently satisfactory.

Surprisingly so, indeed, since the figures are actually better than those of 1945.

One immediate consequence of Paisley has been the raising of hopes of winning North Croydon, where the intervention of Air Vice-Marshal Bennett as Liberal candidate makes that contest a much more open affair.

In Wigan the Communist candidate is confidently expected to make a contribution of his deposit to the national exchequer.

THE all-party conference on Lords reform is now getting down to work. It is likely to encounter many snags.

One, for example, is that any change in the representation of Scottish peers will involve an amendment of the ancient Act of Union between England and Scotland.

But I gather that on both sides the will to achieve something positive is strong.

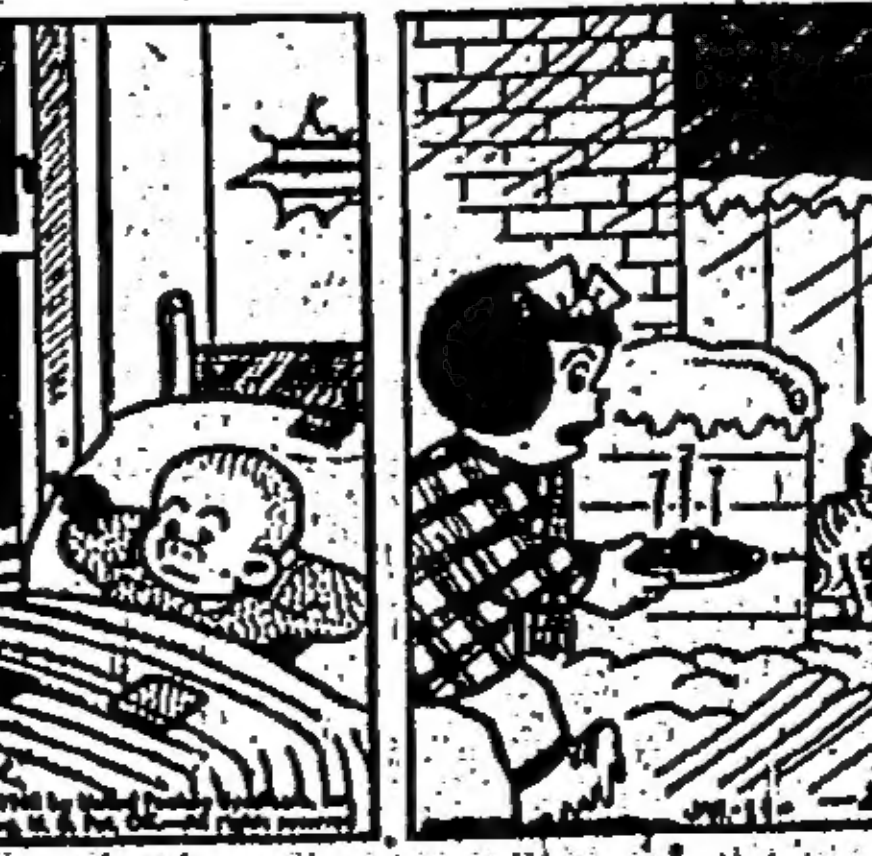
CHANCE encounter on a bus the other day brought me face to face with an old Parliamentary colleague in the person of the Rt. Hon. J.H. Thomas.

It had been a long time since I had last seen him, but I thought he looked extremely vigorous for the 70 years to which he confessed.

Optimism used to be, the strong suit of J.H.T., but I fear this is no longer the case. For as I got off the bus at Westminster he pointed to the Houses of Parliament and said solemnly: "You are going to have a smash up there before long."

I hope the thought was not the child of a wish of our old colleague.

## NANCY Who's a Softy?



Don't wait till you see this!

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## Chennault's Plane Shot At

Washington, Mar. 9.—General Claire L. Chennault, the operator of the airline whose plane was attacked by two fighter planes with Russian Red Star markings on a flight from Mukden to Tientsin, said tonight he believed the fighters belonged to the Russian forces based at Port Arthur.

"No one has any reason to shoot at us," he said, adding that he had ordered his planes to continue their evacuation flights from Mukden.

"If the fighter planes were P-39s and bore Russian markings, they could not have been Chinese. The Chinese have no P-39s," he declared.

Asked whether the incident was connected with his trip to Washington to testify before a Congressional committee on proposed United States aid to China, General Chennault said: "I do not like to think it will not be reassuring to my pilots if they feel that the incident is the result of my being here."

"The Russians have no reason to object to the flights to and from Mukden. We are operating under the authority of the Chinese Government, over Chinese territory and are complying in every way with international law as related to such a service."

General Chennault said his planes had already evacuated about 3,000 persons from Mukden, and he hoped the operation would be completed shortly.—Reuter.

## St Patrick's Society To Celebrate

The Committee of St Patrick's Society of Hongkong has made the following arrangements for the celebration of St Patrick's Eve and St Patrick's Day.

On St Patrick's Eve, March 10, a Dinner Dance will be held in the "Gripes" Hongkong Hotel, which will be preceded by cocktails. Dancing will be to the music of the "Gripes" Orchestra and that of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, whose Pipers and Dancers will also be present.

Irish orchestral music and "Pipers" will be heard during Dinner, and this should create exactly the right atmosphere for some Irish Dances to be included in the programme later on in the evening, and especially for the climax—the distribution of Shamrock at midnight. Dancing will be from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. and a late ferry leaving Hongkong at 2.30 a.m. has been arranged for Kowloon residents.

On St Patrick's Day, March 17, at 9 a.m. the President of the Society, Mr W. L. Bart Sparrow, in the presence of members will lay a wreath on the Cenotaph.

### CENOTAPH CEREMONY

The Cenotaph Ceremony, which this year, he held in conjunction with a parade of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, whose Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. D. M. Shaw, D.S.O., M.C., will also lay a wreath. Music for the parade will be provided by the Regiment's Band whose Buglers will sound the Last Post and Reveille.

Members attending the Ceremony should assemble at the North side of the Supreme Court at 8.45 a.m. All members of the Society should have by now received full details of arrangements, but as the new register of members may not be complete, or as members may have failed to notify the Hon. Secretary of changes in address, any member who has not received this information is asked to get in touch with the Hon. Secretary, P.O. Box No. 615.

Irish men and women, in the Colony who are not members, and who may wish to join the Society should also communicate with the Hon. Secretary.

Last year the Society held a more simple Dinner Dance, which was an extremely enjoyable event and proved to be an outstanding success. From the demand for invitations this year's function will undoubtedly be, for all intents and purposes, a revival of the St Patrick's Ball of pre-war days, which was one of the most enjoyable and important events in the social life of Hongkong.

This year the Society is extremely fortunate in that they have a famous Irish Regiment stationed in the Colony who will be joining with the Society and lending its support in the celebration of Ireland's Patron Saint's Day and it is more than likely that St Patrick's Day 1948, and the "Ceas mille bliain" extended to guests will long be remembered.

## World Trade Unionists Meet To Discuss European Recovery

London, Mar. 9.—Divisions within the international trade union movement must not prevent those who could agree from walking together on the path to European recovery, Miss Florence Hancock, the British chairman, told the international Trade Union Conference on the Marshall Plan here today.

Miss Hancock, who is Chairman of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, was speaking at the opening session of the Conference, which is being attended by representatives of most of the major trade union movements in Western Europe and the United States.

She declared that they were meeting to "come to grips" with a situation created by the decision of the 16 European nations to participate in the promotion of economic recovery and the decision of other governments to pursue a different line of policy.

The Conference approved the credentials of 48 delegates from 20 union centres.

The rival American trade union groups—the Congress of Industrial Organizations and the American Federation of Labour—have both sent delegates.

Portugal, Turkey, Iceland and Greece are not represented. Other absentees are the representatives of the official French and Italian national trade union organisations.

Extensive precautions had been taken to ensure the privacy of the Conference delegates, who were taken quickly into Transport House, the British trade union headquarters, before the press or photographers could meet them.

The floor on which the Conference was held was cleared of all strangers.

All speakers at today's conference emphasised the importance of the labour and the trade union movements of Western Europe in the European recovery programme.

Two commissions of seven members each have been established. The first will prepare a general declaration of the aims of the Conference and the second will make recommendations about some form of continuing organisation.

M. Louis Major, of the Belgian Labour Federation, spoke for the Benelux national trade union centres. He hoped that the other countries represented at the conference would examine the initiative taken by the Benelux countries in the direction of a customs union.

Mr Frank Fenton, of the American Federation of Labour, who spoke also for the American Labour Executive Association, said they firmly believed the success of the recovery programme would depend largely on the Western European trade unionists.

Advisory Committee

Mr Arthur Deakin, the British delegate and President of the World Federation of Trade Unions, said the trade unionists in each of the participating countries should seek close association with their own governments in the administration of the recovery programme.

The present conference should agree to set up a trade union advisory committee to keep in touch with and inform the national centres about developments of the recovery programme.

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programme. This committee should be empowered to reconvene the conference when necessary.

M. Leon Jouhaux, of the Force Ouvriere (France), said the programme must be put into operation with all speed to avoid "a very grave crisis."

There was no intention of lining up the West against the East. The position of trade unions in some countries would be strengthened by unanimous decisions at the conference.

"Austrian workers stood behind the recovery programme as one man," M. Johann Boehm, of the Austrian Federation of Labour, declared.—Reuter.

## WHY BENES ACCEPTED GOTTWALD'S CABINET

BY PAVEL TIGRID

Munich, Mar. 9.—At last I am able to reveal what happened when Czechoslovakia's political crisis was at its height, and why President Benes was forced to accept the appointment of a Communist-dominated cabinet. I gathered the facts from representatives of the Czech democratic parties who were able to escape to the American zone of Germany. For security reasons, their names cannot yet be revealed.

The Czech crisis developed very quickly following the arrival on Thursday, February 19, at the Prague airport, of Zorin, deputy Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Soviet Ambassador to Czechoslovakia.

It had been established that Zorin brought with him an order from Moscow to the Czech Communists to go ahead with a putsch. Zorin talked with several Czech non-Communist ministers. In an attempt to win their approval of the new government.

In the Communist vocabulary "the people" means only the Communist people.

Army-Purge Begins

Svoboda also ordered a general cleansing of "all reactionary elements" in the Czech army. Hundreds of officers were suddenly given leave and Communist officers were moved up quickly to replace them.

In the afternoon of February 25, Gottwald went to the President's castle. During a stormy exchange Dr Benes removed Gottwald, who appeared to be playing Hitler's old

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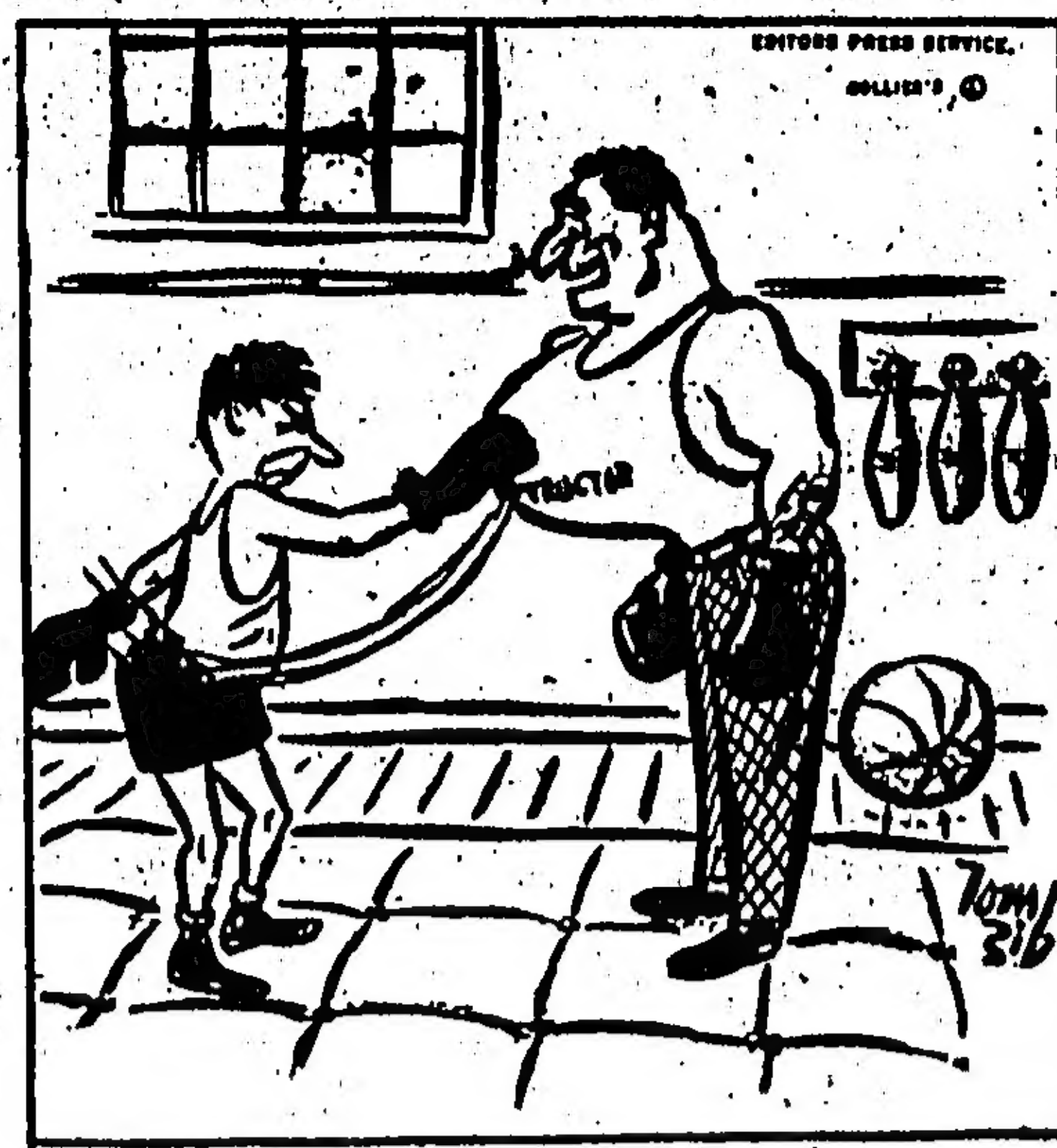
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"That's more like it, Mr Simpson—I think I felt it that time."

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"revolutionary changes" in Czechoslovakia were made with the Kremlin's full consent.

From the beginning Dr Benes realized the gravity of the situation, but he refused to give in. Until Tuesday, February 24, he refused to accept the resignation of 12 democratic ministers following which the Communists opened a bid for power.

Dr Benes even sent a message on Sunday, February 22, to several democratic ministers and members of Parliament saying he would not give in to the Communist demand for a Communist-controlled cabinet.

On Tuesday, February 24, Klement Gottwald pressed Dr Benes for a decision. Roughly he said: "Mister President, you have to accept the resignation of the 12 ministers. Here is a list with the names of the new members of my cabinet. It does not matter whether or not you sign. The result will be the same. But I advise you strongly to sign."

Tension Grew

Meanwhile, tension in the country grew. Prague students demonstrated and were shot at. For the afternoon of February 25, the Communists prepared a huge rally of armed workers and militia. Trucks were beginning to unload workers inside the city.

Gottwald gave Dr Benes until four o'clock on the afternoon of February 25 to decide. At that same time, masses of armed Communists were to be assembled in Prague's biggest square to take their orders. Zorin expressed his approval of the entire plan.

That day saw the blow which perhaps decided the issue.

On Monday, February 23, the President had sent for the Minister of Defence, Gen. Ludvik Svoboda, officially a non-party man. Their meeting was brief.

"Are you with me or against me?" Dr Benes asked the General.

"With you under any circumstances," he replied.

"Can I rely on you?" the President persisted.

"I am at your service," Svoboda assured Dr Benes.

Twenty-four hours later Svoboda betrayed the President. On February 24 he issued a proclamation stating that the army "will never march against the people."

"THE MIDDLE WATCH"

Clever Show By The YMCA Dramatic Club

The European YMCA Dramatic Club offer a pleasant and mature performance of the popular three-act comedy, "The Middle Watch." Last night's audience in the West Lounge enjoyed themselves immensely.

One danger of a comedy such as this one is for players to parody their roles, but the YMCA cast, while giving full value to the comic situations and the amusing dialogue, skilfully avoids this pitfall.

There are some splendid individual performances, such as Arnold Graham's Admiral Sir Hercules Hewitt, Joan Horman's Fisher's Mary Carlton, Jim Moodie's Captain Maitland, and Bob Leigh's handling of that choice role, Marine Oge.

Delightful vignettes come from Nan Macdonald as Charlotte Hopkinson and Eric MacNider as Ah Fong.

There are practically no blemishes in this presentation, the only shortcomings induced last night being somewhat too many missed lines and some faulty timing. Both can be debited to "first night" nerves and are easily corrected.

Theatre lovers will have reason for regret if they fail to see "The Middle Watch" which runs tonight, tomorrow, Friday and Saturday night, with a matinee on Saturday.

Printed and published by FRANK RICHARDS for and on behalf of South China Morning Post Limited at 1-3, Wyndham Street, City of Victoria in the Colony of Hongkong.

## Favourable Reaction To MacArthur's Decision

BY ERNEST HOBERECHT

Tokyo, Mar. 9.—General Douglas MacArthur plans to go on here in Japan as though nothing had happened, according to all indications, and although he has decided to make himself available for a political career if drafted for the Presidency, he did not let that alter his regular routine today.

Most observers think that the Supreme Commander would keep right on with his business of running the occupation and let his boosters in America handle all political details.

It is understood that he told his new Public Information Officer, Col. M. P. Echols, that there would be no change in his public relations programme, and so far as his relations with the press are concerned it would be "business as usual."

However, it is learned that the statement announcing that he would run if nominated was not handled in the routine manner by the Public Information Office but written and stencilled in Allied Headquarters offices near Gen. MacArthur's office and then delivered in a finished form this morning to the Public Information Office just prior to the release time.

Busy With Jap Cabinet

The General is undoubtedly busy these days since a new Japanese Cabinet has been in formation, and the final list without question had to be submitted to him before the plans were released to the public by the Japanese tonight.

It is recalled that MacArthur told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that he could not return to America at this time because of the current Cabinet formation process. Probably nobody hopes more than the Japanese that the future policy will be "business as usual." As it stands now, the Japanese know what the policy is, and they fear that a change of Supreme Commander may upset the present arrangements.

Japanese political circles are already speculating that there might be several changes in the Allied Headquarters if MacArthur is nominated for the Presidency. They think that MacArthur would take some of his closest associates back to America with him, thus bringing about change in the personnel here and possibly policy changes.

Good For Far East

On the other hand, many Japanese agree with some observers here that it would be beneficial to the Far East if MacArthur is elected President. They point out that MacArthur has a wide knowledge of Far Eastern affairs, and his election as President undoubtedly would mean increased United States attention towards this part of the world.

It is recalled that MacArthur said in his China statement that the Americans must look "for a better life through yet untapped opportunities for trade and commerce in the advancement of Asiatic races."

Many Japanese believe that if MacArthur is elected President he would put into effect many ideas he expressed relative to the need for a self-sufficient Japan.

The importance of the MacArthur announcement to the Far East is seen in a statement to the United Press by the Chinese judge, Mei Ju-ao, of the International Military Tribunal in the Far East. He said that MacArthur as President would "be an important asset" to the Far East, including China. He said that MacArthur has "great foresight" and wide experience in matters related to the Far East.—United Press.

### NOTICE

THE "STAR" FERRY CO., LTD.

Notice To Shareholders

"NOTICE is hereby given that the forty-sixth Ordinary Yearly Meeting of the Members of this Company will be held at the Office of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., on Wednesday the 17th day of March, 1948, at Noon, to receive the Report of the Board of Directors and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1947, to elect Directors and to appoint Auditors."

Notice is also given that the Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the 4th March, 1948, to the 17th March, 1948, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

C. E. TERRY,  
Manager & Secretary.

Hongkong, 26th February, 1948.

### NOTICE

TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisers are requested to note that not less than 24 hours notice prior to the day of publication should be given for all commercial display advertisements. Change of copy instructions and Classified Advertisements will be received up till 4.30 p.m. for the following day.

POSITIONS WANTED

ENGLISHMAN, 26, single, matriculated, 10 months with I.C. in Hong Kong (1942-43), desires return immediately to business career in Colony. 6 1/2 years experience of public library, bookkeeping and R.A.F. Information Room administration, keen, plenty of initiative and organising ability. Easily adaptable to new conditions. Excellent references. Box 112, Hong Kong Telegraph.

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William Powell-Lamarr

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The Most Gripping and Thought-Provoking Film Ever Made!

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